

THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

Focus shifts to vote on witnesses

Senate trial could come to an abrupt conclusion Friday

BY LISA MASCARO,
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AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate jurors peppered President Donald Trump's defenders and accusers with final questions at his impeachment trial Thursday ahead of a crucial vote on calling witnesses, the focus shifting from details of the charges to whether it was time to simply acquit and conclude the trial.

The vote on witnesses, ex-

pected Friday, could lead to an abrupt end of the trial with the expected acquittal. Or, less likely, it could bring weeks more of argument as Democrats press to hear testimony from former national security adviser John Bolton and others.

Thursday's testimony included pleas to the senators who will decide Trump's fate, to either stop a president who Democrats said tried to cheat in the 2016 election and will again, or to shut down impeachment proceedings that Republicans insisted were never

more than a partisan attack.

"Let's give the country a trial they can be proud of," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead prosecutor for House Democrats. Americans, he said, know what it takes for a fair trial and won't stand for anything less.

Trump attorney Eric Herschmann countered that Democrats are only prosecuting the president because they can't beat him in the 2020 election.

"We trust the American people to decide who should be our

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AP PHOTOS

Pam Bondi, left, a member of President Donald Trump's legal team, speaks Thursday during the impeachment trial in the Senate. At right, House impeachment manager Val Demings, D-Fla., answers a question.

PICTURING MARYLAND



BARBARA HADDOCK TAYLOR/BALTIMORE SUN

New buses, new logo, new slogan

Tommy O'Malley, an installation manager with AP Corp., wraps a new Charm City Circulator bus in a vinyl coating Thursday at the George L. Winfield Fleet Management Facility in East Baltimore. **STORY ON NEWS PG 2**

Maryland coronavirus test comes in negative

BY MEREDITH COHN

The first person tested in Maryland for the novel coronavirus that has swept through China does not have the virus, state health officials reported Thursday.

The person, who was not identified but was in isolation at home, sparked days of concern about the new virus that has crept into the United States.

A sixth U.S. case was reported Thursday in Chicago, the first transmitted person-to-person in the nation, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The other cases were reported in Arizona, California, Illinois and Washington state among people who had returned from travels to China.

The virus has sickened 9,692 so far, mostly in China, and led to 213 deaths, all in that country. But 18 other countries have confirmed infections, prompting the World Health Organization on Thursday to declare the virus a global public health emergency. The **See VIRUS**, page 9

OUTBREAK: World Health Organization declares global emergency over virus. **NEWS PG 8**



KIM HAIRSTON/BALTIMORE SUN

Nailah's Kitchen stands shuttered at 306-310 N. Howard St. in Baltimore.

Kuwaiti royal's money gone

Redevelopment plan investments tied up in competing lawsuits

BY TIM PRUDENTE

When a Middle Eastern royal stepped into his little restaurant in a rundown stretch of Baltimore, Jean Agbodjogbe felt touched by fortune.

The West African immigrant had worked his way from a job at KFC to opening a small eatery on Howard Street. Now a woman from the Kuwaiti ruling family wanted to buy dinner. Lots of dinner.

Agbodjogbe had never seen a \$10,000 order.

The chance encounter in June 2014 brought him a millionaire benefactor, transformed him into a restaurateur featured in newspapers and magazines, even renewed hope of a second act for the ruins of Baltimore's famed shopping corridor.

Six years later, the money's gone. The restaurants are shuttered. And Agbodjogbe, once hailed as a poster child

for the American dream, sits in federal court in downtown Baltimore, defending himself against civil allegations that he fled the Kuwaiti royal for nearly \$7 million.

Dueling lawsuits over the money went to trial this month in U.S. District Court. Jurors will try to sort out the mess. Did Agbodjogbe dupe a noble out of a fortune? Who is Alia Salem Al-Sabah?

"I'm not a princess. I'm a **See MONEY**, page 11

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dems wield their majority

State lawmakers override Hogan's vetoes on 5 measures

BY LUKE BROADWATER
AND PAMELA WOOD

The Maryland General Assembly voted Thursday to override five bills vetoed by Gov. Larry Hogan, including a measure that prohibits employers from asking prospective employees about any criminal history on job applications.

It was the latest example of the Democrat-controlled legislature flexing its muscle over the Republican governor.

Lawmakers voted largely along party lines — 31-15 in the state Senate and 95-43 in the House of Delegates — to override Hogan's vetoes of legislation to expand the state's Dream Act, which allows students who are undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates for college, and to abolish a Handgun Permit Review Board. The board had a history of overruling Maryland State Police decisions, which resulted in more people legally carrying handguns.

It takes 29 votes in the Senate to override a veto and 85 votes in the House.

State Sen. Jill P. Carter, a Baltimore Democrat, was the lead sponsor of the "ban the box" legislation, which will limit when employers can discuss a job applicant's criminal record. Carter spoke Thursday in favor of the veto override, arguing it's important to help people re-entering the work force after time in prison or jail. If an ex-offender isn't ruled out **See OVERRIDE**, page 11

RESTITUTION: UM hospital network seeks \$400,000 from ex-Baltimore mayor. **NEWS PG 2**

Trade-offs for states in Medicaid offer

The Trump administration has offered states more control over spending, but they must accept limits on what they get. **NEWS PG 8**

'Harmless old man' image hangs over trial

Harvey Weinstein enters courtroom holding another man's arm, looking as if he'd collapse if left to walk on his own. **NEWS PG 6**

